

March 10

Acts 15:1-29

**“Deliberations &
Expectations”**



¹ And certain men which came down from Judaea taught the brethren, and said, Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved. ² When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question. ³ And being brought on their way by

the church, they passed through Phenice and Samaria, declaring the conversion of the Gentiles: and they caused great joy unto all the brethren. ⁴ And when they were come to Jerusalem, they were received of the church, and of the apostles and elders, and they declared all things that God had done with them. ⁵ But there rose up certain of the sect of the Pharisees which believed, saying That it was needful to circumcise them, and to

command them to keep the law of Moses. ⁶ And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter. ⁷ And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. ⁸ And God, which knoweth the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Ghost, even as he

did unto us; ⁹ And put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. ¹⁰ Now therefore why tempt ye God, to put a yoke upon the neck of the disciples, which neither our fathers nor we were able to bear? ¹¹ But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.

¹² Then all the multitude kept silence, and gave audience to Barnabas and Paul, declaring what miracles and wonders God had wrought

among the Gentiles by them.

¹³ And after they had held
their peace, James

answered, saying, Men and
brethren, hearken unto me:

¹⁴ Simeon hath declared how
God at the first did visit the
Gentiles, to take out of them
a people for his name. ¹⁵ And

to this agree the words of
the prophets; as it is written,

¹⁶ After this I will return, and
will build again the
tabernacle of David, which is
fallen down; and I will build
again the ruins thereof, and I
will set it up: ¹⁷ That the

residue of men might seek
after the Lord, and all the
Gentiles, upon whom my
name is called, saith the
Lord, who doeth all these
things. ¹⁸ Known unto God
are all his works from the
beginning of the world.

¹⁹ Wherefore my sentence is,
that we trouble not them,
which from among the
Gentiles are turned to God:

²⁰ But that we write unto
them, that they
**abstain from
pollutions of idols,
and from fornication,**

**and from things
strangled, and
from blood.**

**21 For Moses of old time hath
in every city them that
preach him, being read in the
synagogues every sabbath
day. 22 Then pleased it the
apostles and elders, with the
whole church, to send
chosen men of their own
company to Antioch with
Paul and Barnabas; namely,
Judas surnamed Barsabas,
and Silas, chief men among
the brethren: 23 And they
wrote letters by them after**

**this manner; The apostles
and elders and brethren
send greeting unto the
brethren which are of the
Gentiles in Antioch and Syria
and Cilicia: ²⁴ Forasmuch as
we have heard, that certain
which went out from us have
troubled you with words,
subverting your souls,
saying, Ye must be
circumcised, and keep the
law: to whom we gave no
such commandment: ²⁵ It
seemed good unto us, being
assembled with one accord,
to send chosen men unto**

you with our beloved
Barnabas and Paul, ²⁶ Men
that have hazarded their
lives for the name of our
Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁷ We
have sent therefore Judas
and Silas, who shall also tell
you the same things by
mouth. ²⁸ For it seemed good
to the Holy Ghost, and to us,
to lay upon you no greater
burden than these necessary
things; ²⁹ That ye
**abstain from meats
offered to idols, and
from blood, and from**

**things strangled, and
from fornication:
from which if ye
keep yourselves, ye
shall do well. Fare
ye well.**

Meetings were held
concerning the
expectations of
non-Jewish followers
of the teachings of
Christ— mainly
whether they should:

(1) be circumcised
and
(2) be required to
keep the laws of
Moses.

It was decided that
Gentiles were neither
mandated to be
circumcised nor to
observe the laws of
Moses, but were to,
“abstain from

**pollutions of
idols, and from
fornication, and
from things
strangled, and
from blood.”**

Aside from
fornication,
what do
those things
mean?

How were they
to be practiced?

Was that to
be a part of
regular/mainstream
Christ-following?

Are they mandates or
just suggestions for
“New Testament
Believers”?

Pollutions of Idols, in a general sense, may be defined as the influence & practice of **worshipping** and/or greatly admiring false gods including statues, emblems, jewelry, pictures, tattoos, trinkets, or other tangible items.

Additionally, it may
be defined as the
placing of excessive
value on people,
things, and even
concepts;
inappropriate
reverence.

**Blood & Other
Related Food
References:**

Genesis 9:4;
Deuteronomy 12:16,
23; Deuteronomy
14:21; Leviticus 3:17,
7:26, 17:13; 1 Samuel
14:33.

Fornication is
commonly defined as
consensual sexual
intercourse between
two people who are
not married to each

other. However,
spiritual fornication
is often implied
throughout
Scripture.

In the book of **The
Wisdom of Solomon**
(chapter 14, verse
12), you will see it
spelled out plainly
in connection with
idolatry. Why, in

Acts 15, might
fornication have
been placed
alongside
prohibitions
regarding foods?

One view is that in
eating foods, there is
a connection,
mingling, ingestion,
and bond created,
much like in sex, but
with someone or

something that is not
allowed
(fornication).

*[See also: Acts 21:25,
Revelation 2:14, 2:20]*

So we have a
scriptural passage
involving
the deliberations
(talks, discussions)
and expectations
of those who are
categorized as

non-Jews who
follow Christ.

Do we really
understand what
was expected? How
closely do our lives
depict those
expectations?

Is this a realistic
guideline for today?